Firearm Injury Death Rates, Age-Adjusted
Clark County and Washington State, 1994 through 2001

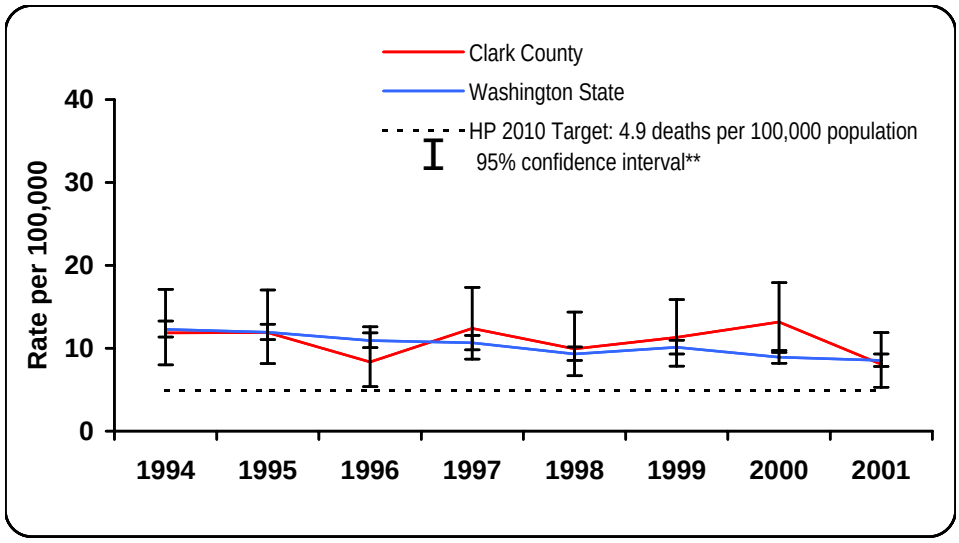
Why we should care: Of all nonfatal firearm-related injuries treated in emergency departments, 62% were known to have resulted from an assault. For firearm-related fatalities, 44% were homicides. The number of gunshot wounds from assaults treated in hospital emergency departments fell from 64,100 in 1993 to 39,400 in 1997, a 39% decline. Homicides committed with a firearm fell from 18,300 in 1993 to 13,300 in 1997, a 27% decline. (3)

Status:

- Since mid-1996, Clark County has had a higher firearm related death rate than Washington State, but this changed in 2001.
- Clark County is still not at the Healthy People 2010 target of 4.9 deaths per 100,000 population, but overall has reduced the number of firearm cases.

What we can do:

- As the lead agency in injury control, CDC plays a key role in coordinating activities and programs in the Public Health Service to prevent firearm-related injuries. (2)
- A nationwide system to track firearm-related injuries, The National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), was established in collaboration with the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1992. This system collects data on firearm-related injuries from a population-based sample of 91 hospital emergency departments throughout the country. (2)



	Clark County			Washington State		
Year	Rate*	95% CI**	Number	Rate*	95% CI**	Number
1994	11.8	(8.0, 17.1)	31	12.3	(11.4, 13.3)	650
1995	11.9	(8.2, 17.0)	33	11.9	(11.0, 12.9)	648
1996	8.4	(5.4, 12.6)	25	10.9	(10.1, 11.8)	602
1997	12.4	(8.7, 17.3)	37	10.6	(9.8, 11.5)	595
1998	9.9	(6.7, 14.4)	30	9.3	(8.5, 10.2)	529
1999	11.3	(7.8, 15.9)	35	10.1	(9.3, 11.0)	583
2000	13.2	(9.5, 17.9)	43	8.9	(8.2, 9.7)	522
2001	8.1	(5.3, 11.9)	27	8.5	(7.8, 9.3)	508

Please see reverse side for technical notes and sources

Technical Notes: The age-adjusted death rate is defined as the number of deaths per 100,000 standard population after removing the effects of age on mortality.
*Rate per 100,000 population adjusted using the 2000 U.S. Standard Population; deaths coded using ICD 10.
** If the confidence intervals for state and county overlap in a given year, there is no significant difference between these rates.

Sources: (1) National Vital Statistics System (NVSS), CDC, NCHS (2) http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/fafacts.htm (3) U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/fidc9397.htm (4) Vital Registration System, Annual Statistics Files, Deaths 1980-2001. [Data file]. Olympia, WA: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics. (5) Public Health: Seattle & King County, Epidemiology, Planning, & Evaluation (1991-2003). VistaPHw (Version 3.1.1) [Computer software for public health assessment]. Seattle, WA.